Sudan Operation

Sudan – Global call meeting minutes

3 May 2023

LOCATION	Online (Rome, Italy)
DATE	3 May 2023
CHAIR	Global Logistics Cluster Coordinator
PARTICIPANTS	Airlink, Alight, Concern Worldwide, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG-ECHO), Emergency NGO, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office of the UK (FCDO), HULO COOP, Humanity & Inclusion-Atlas Logistique, Humedica International Aid, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Humanitarian City (IHC), International Medical Corps (IMC), International Organisation for Migration (IOM), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Kuehne-Nagel Emergency Relief Logistics, Médecins Sans Frontières OCG (MSF), Regional Service Centre in Entebbe (RSCE), Relief International, The Global Fund, Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Save the Children, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) , United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), Welthungerhilfe, World Food Programme (WFP)
AGENDA	1. Action points 2. Situation Update and Entry Points status 3. Local Market Capacity 4. Plans 5. AOB
ACTION POINTS	• The Logistics Cluster to share a more detailed plan on the support activities to partners' cargo consolidation activities. • Partners to share their estimated pipeline, current storage capacity in Abeche, Port Sudan and Jeddah and special needs for cargo consolidation (form) • The Logistics Cluster to confirm with shipping companies if sea transport is functioning normally between Jeddha and Port Sudan • The Logistics Cluster to clarify the procedures and requirements to airlift cargo to Jeddah and then ship it to Port Sudan.

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1. Action points

The action points from the previous call were reviewed :

- Organise local and regional coordination meetings – ACTIONED. The Sudan Logistics Cluster has resumed the coordination meetings. The first meeting took place on 2 May. Minutes can be found online
- Collect and share information on export of supplies from Chad or South Sudan to Sudan + potential regional supply corridors – ACTIONED. IMPACCT Working Group has been activated. Partners wishing to join the dedicated WhatsApp group should send an email with the contact details to impacct.2021@gmail.com
- Share information and assessment of storage and transport capacities and fuel updates. ONGOING – Survey will be launched after the call (accessible here).
- Share information on shipping and contingency plans through Jeddah and other regional locations as soon as available. ACTIONED – Plan to be presented during the call

2. Situation Update

Partners are encouraged to continue providing any logistical information they have via global.logcluster@wfp.org

An update on the current situation and logistics gaps in Sudan was provided:

- UNHAS has been running evacuation flights but on an ad hoc basis so far (from Port Sudan to Nairobi and Jeddah) with the obtention of a special permit (on the 28 and on the 2 May). The airspace remains closed. UNHAS is, at the moment, trying to get clearance for regular flights.
- Port Sudan Port continues functioning; containers are still going in and out. Operations are ongoing there.
- Port Sudan Airport is operative, although the airspace remains closed, which means that once the airspace reopens, the airport should be ready to resume activities.
- WFP is at the moment unable to provide fuel – looking at buying from the main oil company in Sudan
- Ethiopia: Galabat, the border crossing point between Sudan and Ethiopia, is open for civilians and cargo, but there have not been reports of humanitarian cargo crossing the border, just limited commercial cargo movement.
- Egypt: The land crossing Arguin is officially open, but no information has been received on any humanitarian cargo crossing the border point.
- Chad: Lack of information on humanitarian cargo crossing from Chad to Sudan. At the moment, no partner has reported crossing the border from Chad to Sudan.
- The Entry Points Map has been updated, can be accessed here
- The Logistics Cluster is also activated in some of the neighbouring countries: Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Central African Republic.

3. Local Market Capacity

Some of the main logistical challenges reported by partners were presented:

- The banking system is not functional. Some partners have reported being able to still use the Bandak app (Khartoum Bank) for money transfers and electricity purchases.
- Limited fuel availability while prices have skyrocketed. The cost of transport has reportedly risen precipitously.
- Security contractors are equally impacted; organisations face challenges in ensuring security at facilities.
- Temperature-controlled health supplies rely on generator/fuel where still available.
- Connectivity issues.

4. Logistics Plan

- Partners who already have storage and transport capacity in Port Sudan are encouraged to keep dispatching their humanitarian cargo that is ready for distribution via Port Sudan.
- WFP, as Cluster Lead agency, WFP, as Logistics Cluster Lead agency, will support the humanitarian community with the following:
    - **Coordination and Information Management:** Cluster cells will be established in Nairobi (regional), Port Sudan, Abeche, and Jeddha to coordinate response efforts and ensure logistics information is timely available to the humanitarian community.
    - **Logistics services:**
        - Cargo ready for distribution and with customs clearance authorisations may be directed to Port Sudan for immediate dispatch. Only customs-cleared cargo already in Port Sudan may be stored at the WFP yard, pending uptake. The current storage capacity and need in Port Sudan are being assessed, including a staging area within the port, and partners are encouraged to share their current capacity and potential needs with the Logistics Cluster via this form.
        - As imported quantities are now exceeding the uptake capacity in Port Sudan, and to avoid congestion, non-assigned cargo and/or cargo not ready for immediate uptake in Sudan may be prepositioned in Jeddah, where common storage and forwarding hubs will be established, and sea transport may be provided. For cargo arriving by air, reception at the airport and shunting through commercial agents could be made available.
        - In Chad, a common storage capacity will be established in Abeche in support of the refugee response as well as for prepositioning of cargo for Sudan when access becomes available.
        - Needs for temperature-controlled storage will also be considered at all common storage locations.

5. AoB

- A partner inquired about the best options for getting aviation fuel in Chad: the partner and UNHAS to discuss bilaterally.
- A partner inquired about the procedures and regulations to airlift cargo to Jeddah and then ship it to Port Sudan: information that may be collected will be shared on the website. Partners also invited to join the importations and customs clearance working group (IMPACCT).
- A partner inquired about the coordination mechanisms in place for the refugee response in the neighbouring countries. Regarding logistics, there are active Logistics Cluster operations in Central African Republic, Ethiopia and South Sudan.
- Partners raised the concern about the possible lack of temperature-controlled storage capacity in Port Sudan and the need to assess the Port Sudan infrastructure in that regard. The Global Logistics Cluster will share a survey to get additional information from partners (accessible here).
- Partners raised the need to know which transporters are willing to move cargo out of Port Sudan and access conditions to identify the reachable areas.
- ECHO is also exploring the possibility of supporting airbridges to neighbouring countries.

The next Global Logistics Cluster call will be held next week (May 8-12), and an invite will be circulated among partners.

Contacts

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